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Furthermore, the statements regarding the cost of manufacture of industrial products, such as alcohol, unless they have been scrutinized and confirmed by experienced manufacturers, must be accepted with reserve and may also have some tendency to defeat the object of the book. WM. McMURTRIE

Synopsis of Mineral Characters. By RALPH W. RICHARDS. New York, John Wiley & Sons; London, Chapman & Hall, Ltd. 1907.

This is an alphabetically arranged list of minerals and their chief physical characteristics, with concise definitions and descriptions; the chemical composition expressed by an empirical formula. Simple blowpipe reactions are also given. The book is intended as a reference work for those who have studied mineralogy and need notes to aid in the identification of minerals in the field. It is a compact 12mo of 100 pages, which may be carried about in the pocket conveniently, and will undoubtedly prove very useful to students and field workers. J. P. IDDIGS

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE FORTIETH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE KANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

At the meeting of the Kansas Academy of Science held in Emporia on November 29 and 30, among the many important papers read the following may be mentioned:

"Natural Gas obtained from Trees," by F. W. Bushong and D. F. McFarland. This paper gives an analysis of natural gas obtained by boring into cottonwood trees. The authors showed that this gas contained 7.21 per cent. of carbon dioxide and about 61 per cent. of marsh gas, and 30 per cent. of nitrogen. L. E. Sayre discussed the percentage of extractives in certain drugs and spices, and commented on the necessity of having improved and reliable methods for making these determinations. He also mentioned some "fake" medical preparations that were upon the market, and referred to the work of the board of health in trying to reform the fraudulent methods of labeling. Considerable attention was paid to the progress of the water survey of Kansas in papers read upon

the chemical work by E. H. S. Bailey and F. W. Bushong, on the bacteriological work by M. A. Barber and W. J. Starin, on the field work by H. N. Parker, and upon engineering problems by W. C. Hoad. C. F. Menninger read a paper on "Gastric Ferments," showing the remarkable advancement in the knowledge of this subject that has recently been made. F. B. Dains and E. W. Brown reported on the reaction of formanidines, giving an account of some newly discovered bodies. Some new finds in the Kansas Chalk beds were reported by Chas. H. Sternberg. A fossil tooth and other bones from Phillips County was discussed by J. T. Lovewell. A very practical paper on the "Food Habits of the Blue Jay" was read by L. L. Dyche. In this he showed the murderous intent of this bird, not only from observation, but also from numerous dissections of the blue jay, in which the heart and other vital parts of birds were found in the crop. Grace R. Meeker discussed a curious "Impatiens" recently found. W. Knaus, besides reporting on additions to Kansas coleoptera, mentioned some new coleoptera found in New Mexico, and many interesting species collected at night in McPherson, Kansas. "A Parasite on Eggs of Mantis" was the subject of a paper by Mrs. L. C. R. Smyth. L. C. Wooster read a paper on the "Antiquity of Man's Body-building Instincts." B. R. Rogers in a paper upon "Tuberculosis" emphasized the importance of greater precautions to prevent the spread of this disease. "The Abnormal Character of Man" was the title of a paper by J. M. McWharf. W. F. Hoyt in an entertaining way gave a report on some scientific frauds and fallacies. The "Buried City of the Panhandle" was the subject of a paper by F. L. Eyerly. B. B. Smyth discussed harmonics and magic hexagons. The advantage of fireless cooking was explained by J. T. Lovewell. H. P. Cady gave a résumé of his work on the occurrence of neon in natural gas, and showed that it was possible to obtain neon in appreciable quantities from this source. Papers on the "Quantity of Water found in Oysters" as they are marketed, and the "Occurrence of Copper in Oysters," were pre-